

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HINDLEY.



FORTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

HINDLEY :
FRED BRADLEY AND SON LTD.

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1944.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

**Medical Officer of Health, Child Welfare Officer, and
...School Medical Officer:**

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

C. H. WALSH, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Pathologist and Bacteriologist:

G. A. CARY LYNCH, M.D., D.P.H.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon - - - - W. CLEGG, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors:

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;

Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;

Meat Inspector's Certificates:—

Royal Sanitary Institute;

Liverpool University.

J. H. PLATT (Additional).

Certificate, S.I.B.;

Associate Member, Royal Sanitary Institute;

Meat Inspector's Certificate—Liverpool University.

Health Visitors:

Miss M. SNOWDEN, S.R.N., C.M.B., R.S.I.

Miss E. L. SMELTZER, S.R.N., C.M.B. (PART I), R.S.I.

Isolation Hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. S. MILLER, Caretakers (Resigned).

Mr. and Mrs. J. DILLON, Caretakers.

Clerical Staff:

Miss D. M. BUCKMASTER.

R. WILLIAMS (H.M. Forces).

Miss E. RIGBY (Temporary).

SECTION A.

Area in acres—2612.21.

Population (Census, 1931)—21,629.

Registrar-General's estimate of population for birth and death-rate, 1944—18,110.

Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)—5,140.

End of 1944 (according to Rate Books)—5,520.

Rateable Value—£71,093.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£273.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The industrial occupations in Hindley were, for the most part, Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Coal Mining. There is now one Weaving Shed, one Paint Works, one Steel Scaffolding Works, and one Cotton Mill. All Pits have ceased working. There is little unemployment, practically all employable persons having been absorbed into munitions and other allied industries.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the resident population—20.8.

			Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...		370	196	174
Illegitimate	...		8	6	2
Total	...	...	378	202	176
Stillbirths—Legitimate	...	...	12	6	6
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil.	—	—
Infant deaths under one year:—					
Legitimate	...	...	22	16	6
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

		Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	
		Deaths.	Births.
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	1	2.56
Other Maternal Causes	... ..	1	2.56

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births—60.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—59.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—125.

General Death Statistics.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—13.5.

					Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	245	132	113

Principal causes of mortality:—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—38.

Deaths from Heart Disease—54.

Deaths from Bronchitis—16.

Deaths from Pneumonia—15.

Deaths from Cerebral Vascular Lesions—37.

		1943.	1944
Registered in Hindley Urban District	...	170	160
Belonging to and registered out of the District		89	86
Less Deaths of non-residents transferred ..		3	1
Death-rate per 1,000 living	... ..	14.1	13.5
Infantile mortality death-rate per 1,000 births		52	60
Percentage death-rate of Infants—Legitimate		4.8	5.9
Percentage death-rate of Infants—Illegitimate		8.3	12.5
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		5.84	5.29
Live and stillbirths...		5.54	5.12

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1944 and previous years.

NAME OF DISTRICT—HINDLEY URBAN.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS registered in the district.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS belonging to the district.			
		Un-corrected number.	NETT.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the district.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1938	20230	227	284	14.0	201	9.9	1	75	21	60.0	275	13.5
1939	19760	224	280	13.9	179	9.0	4	70	9	31.0	245	12.1
1940	18560	245	294	15.8	214	11.5	1	94	18	60.0	307	16.5
1941	18580	249	282	15.8	248	12.8	2	73	24	80.3	319	13.3
1942	18320	253	344	19.4	260	14.1	2	91	12	33.0	349	19.0
1943	18090	239	330	18.9	170	9.3	3	89	18	52	256	14.1
1944	18110	235	370	20.8	160	8.8	1	86	23	60.0	245	13.5

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (a) See page 1 (Staff).
- (ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities:—Pathological and Bacteriological Department, Wigan Infirmary, Manchester University.
- (b) Ambulance Services:—Adequate.
 - (i) For Infectious Cases—Ford Motor Ambulance, provided by the Hindley Urban District Council.
 - (ii) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases—Two Motor Ambulances—Austin 18 h.p. and Crossley 21 n.p.

Agreement with the Urban District Councils of Abram and Ince-in-Makerfield for joint use of Ambulances by the three Authorities concerned, garaged at Hindley, available at any hour of the night or day, and co-ordinated with adjoining Authorities.
- (c) Nursing in the Home:—Two District Nurses (Queen's) are working in the district. Their services are highly appreciated.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics:—White House Liverpool Road.

The following Clinics were held:—

Minor Ailments; Ante and Post Natal; Toddlers; Dental; Ophthalmic; Sunlight; Immunisation (Diphtheria).
(Jointly with School Medical Service).

Fortnightly Session Ante-Natal Clinic.

General.

Hospital and other Institutions available for the district:—

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children :—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

A sum of £100 is contributed by the Hindley Urban District Council to the Manchester and Salford Charities' Fund. This sum is there apportioned to the various Hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

During 1944 245 expectant mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 691 attendances, and one mother attended for post-natal advice.

In addition, the Health Visitor paid 78 first visits, and a total number of 280 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Clinic on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The babies are weighed and advice given to the mothers about themselves and their infants by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

Births notified:—M. 212, F. 182 (Illegitimate 5M., 1 F.), Still-births 15, Total 394.

	Births.	Still-births.
Attended at birth by Doctor and Midwives	84	5
Attended at birth by Midwives	151	1
Hospital	146	7
	<hr/> 381	<hr/> 13
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Cases Treated at the Minor Ailment Clinic during the year 1944:

No. of cases treated...	...	...	147.
No. of attendances ...	...	...	301.

			Subsequent Visits.		
	1st Visits	0—1	1—5	Total	
Home Visits	423	1342	832	2597	
Attendances at Clinic	330	5736	882	6948	
Consulted M.O.H. ...	—	62	27	89	
TOTAL	330	5798	909	7037	

Number of Visits paid by Health Visitor to Homes—2,127.

Midwifery Services:—Lancashire County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts. Three Midwives are allocated to Hindley.

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Health Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment would be removed to Astley Sanatorium. Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1944 and were treated in Hospital. One case proved fatal.

Maternal deaths are investigated by the staff of the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopædic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitor, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

Cases occurring during 1944 are classified as follows:—

Ophthalmia Cases.			
Number Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	
1	1	0	
Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
1	0	0	0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Dental Treatment:—Twelve sessions per annum are allocated to Maternity and Child Welfare work. 7 Ante-Natal, 8 Post-Natal and 22 Pre-School Children received dental treatment during the year.

Ophthalmic Treatment:—Eight children under school age were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

Refraction Cases	...	...	...	7
Glasses prescribed and obtained	...	...	...	3
Treatment Cases	...	...	...	23
Attendances	...	...	...	98

Artificial Light Treatment:—2 Pre-School Children received treatment during the year and made 20 attendances.

In pursuance of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health, dealing with the care of illegitimate children, the Urban District of Hindley is participating in the Lancashire County Council scheme, which has been approved by the Ministry.

SECTION C.

1. (i) **Water.**—The water supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is continuous, abundant, and of good quality. 10 houses in the fields are not provided with a separate domestic supply. Quarterly chemical and bacteriological reports prove the water potable and free from contamination.
- (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The complete reorganisation of the Platt Bridge Sewage Works is in progress. Essential adjustments to the complete scheme carried out.
3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.**—There are 4 W.W.C.'s, 16 pail closets and 39 privy middens in the district. No Sewer being available, 78 houses have not separate sanitary accommodation.
- (ii) **Public Cleansing.**—This was carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor by the Council's workmen, Platt Bridge and Hindley Green by contract, Hindley directly. From September the Council resumed collection of the Platt Bridge district. Hindley Green district only is now carried out by contract.
- (iii) **Shops.**—Sanitary conditions supervised and improvements progressing.
- (iv) **Smoke Abatement.**—No action.
- (v) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**—None in the district.
- (vi) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—Inspections carried out.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) (a) Council Houses infested | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Council Houses disinfested | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) Other Houses found to be infested | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Other Houses disinfested | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
- (2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs:
Houses fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide, spraying with
Zaldecide and by fumigating with Sulphur.
- (3) The measures taken, by way of supervision or education of
tenants, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing:
Periodical inspection of houses by Sanitary Inspectors.

4. **Schools.**—The sanitary condition of the Schools in the area is satisfactory and the water supply good and sufficient.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))... | Nil. |
| (i) By the Local Authority... | ... |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities | ... |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons | ... |

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (i) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (i) above | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (iii) above) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

(b) Housing Conditions.

Sufficiency of supply of houses:—The shortage is gradually increasing on account of:—

- (a) Cessation of building operations.
- (b) Establishment of new works.
- (c) Evacuees from other areas.

Actions taken during the year regarding Clearance Areas and Improvement Areas:—

No Clearance or Improvement Areas were represented during the year.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 497

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 497

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers 217

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 117

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—

(a) By owners 69

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain a reasonably accurate position.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 22

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 14

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 47

SECTION E.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were inspected at regular intervals and are generally clean. 12 samples examined for bacteriological content were found to be satisfactory, and 8 unsatisfactory.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—All Slaughterhouses closed under the Government Scheme.

Food Condemned.—(See Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Premises used for the preparation of foods were inspected frequently and were, on the whole, satisfactory.

(c) **Adulteration, Etc.**—Action taken by Local Authority (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of:—

- (i) Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—Carried out mainly by County Council Officials, in co-operation with Sanitary Officers. (See Sanitary Inspector's Report).
- (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations:—Observations made.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Arrangement with Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of all cases of infectious disease.

Twelve cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Anti-Toxin was promptly administered. Twelve cases sent to Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.—33 notifications were received. 19 patients were sent to Hospital.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Fever was notified during the year.

65 cases of Measles and 15 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

Scabies.—Facilities have been established for the treatment of Scabies in the Gas Yard, Cross Street, Hindley. 151 persons (19 under 5 years, 55 5-14 years, and 77 adults) attended for treatment.

The therapeutic agent used is a 25 per cent. emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate, which has been found very effective, and we have had very few secondary cases.

Local practitioners have been informed of these facilities for the treatment of Scabies, which are freely available to all residents of the district.

Infestation.—The general standard of cleanliness in the district remains high, and the few cases of Head Lice Infestation have been satisfactorily dealt with at the Clinic.

III.—TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Hindley cases attend the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

Notification of tuberculosis is generally satisfactory, and no action has been necessary by the Local Authority under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of T.B. patients to Hospital.

TABLE II. —Table showing the number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified from the whole district at different Age Periods, the Localities in which they occurred, and the Number removed to Hospitals during the year 1944.

Disease.	Cases notified in whole district.													Total.		Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages	At Ages—years.												M.	F.		
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up				
Scarlet Fever	33	2	1	...	3	17	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	12	19	...
Diphtheria	12	2	1	...	...	...	2	2	4	1	...	...	...	3	9	12	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Measles	65	5	13	10	4	22	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	34	31	...	1
Pneumonia	35	4	2	1	2	5	3	1	2	4	9	2	...	13	22	1	15
Whooping Cough	15	2	2	2	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	6	9	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	5	...	...	...	9	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pemphigus	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Malaria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS	176	13	21	15	9	15	47	15	7	8	10	14	2	81	95	37	19

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age	Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—	...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2
5—	...	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	1
15—	...	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—	...	—	4	—	1	—	2	—	—
35—	...	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
45—	...	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	5	8	5	8	4	3	1	3
		— 13 —		— 13 —		— 7 —		— 4 —	

TABLE III.

Causes of and ages at Death for the Year 1944.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.																	
	Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 and Up.		All ages	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1	...
2—Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	1
4—Whooping Cough	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	3	4	...	...	...	4	3
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
8—Syphilitic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...
9—Influenza	1	...
10—Measles	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
11—Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	1	...	...	1	...
12—Acute Infantile Encephalitis	3	2	...	...	...	2	3
13—Cancer of Bronchial Cavity and Oesophagus (M.)
Uterus (F.)
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	4	2	...	6	3
15—Cancer of Breast	1	...	2	4	8	9	...	11	13
16—Cancer of all other sites	1	2	...	1	2
17—Diabetes	1	1	6	3	12	14	...	19	18
18—Intra-cranium; Vascular Lesions	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	5	4	14	26	...	24	30
19—Heart Disease	1	1	3	4	...	4	5
20—Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	...	1	...	1	5	2	5	1	...	11	5
21—Bronchitis	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	...	11	4
22—Pneumonia -	1	...	...	1
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
24—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
26—Appendicitis	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	2
27—Other Digestive Diseases	1	...	...	2	2	1	2	...	3	6
28—Nephritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
30—Other Maternal Causes	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
31—Premature Birth	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
32—Congenital; Malformation; Birth Injuries; Infantile
Disease
33—Suicide	2	...	1	...	...	3	...
34—Road Traffic Accidents	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
35—Other Violent Causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	...	6	1
36—All Other Causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	8	1	...	8	5
TOTALS	...	16	7	1	2	1	1	4	2	2	8	10	37	24	65	65	132	113

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-ninth Annual Report of the work of the Department for the year 1944. It is prepared in accordance with the Ministry's Circular and is still in abridged form.

The departmental work throughout the year proceeded smoothly and effectively, considering the many difficulties. There was delay in getting repairs executed as quickly as desired, owing to the scarcity of skilled labour and materials, although we were fairly successful in obtaining our requirements mainly through the assistance rendered by the respective Ministries. At one period wash-boilers were unobtainable and eaves gutters difficult to procure, but relief was obtained however through the agency of the departments concerned. Owners co-operated in a real desire to maintain properties.

Overcrowding.

This is on the increase, mainly by incursion of evacuees and by newly-married couples having to reside with parents. All repairable unoccupied properties have been re-conditioned and made reasonably habitable.

Offensive Trades.

KNACKER YARD.—Only the meat is boiled on the premises. This is done in open pans and there is very little offensive odour from this process. All offals are stored and removed twice per week outside the district for treatment. The premises are in a good state of repair and can be kept in a clean state. Since they were re-conditioned, the premises are less susceptible to rodent infestation.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number of retail purveyors on the register at the end of the year was 16 farmers, 5 dairymen and 39 retailers of bottled milk (13 pasteurised, 1 tuberculin tested, and 25 sterilized). The cowsheds and dairies of the producers are fairly well kept, and the walls and ceilings limewashed at least twice during the year, i.e., May and November. Improvements were carried out at the following farm:—

WOOD-DAGGER FARM:

Reconstruction of cowshed to modern requirements.

Samples of milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act. 20 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination by your Officers, 12 of which were found to be satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory. Periodical visits were paid to farms during the process of milking. Talks with the farmers and delivery of circulars on the production of clean milk, in an effort made to get a pure milk supply.

13 Retailers' Licences were issued for sale of Pasteurised Milk.

One Retailers' Licence was issued for sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Infested buildings and dwellings numbering 9 (1 of which was a Council House) were fumigated with Zaldecide. The cost of disinfection has, in all cases, been borne by the owners.

Several houses infested with other forms of vermin (cockroaches, fleas, etc.) were treated with insecticides and Sulphur Dioxide.

Provision and Replacement of Ashbins.

Ashbins and ashtubs falling in disrepair, numbering 26, were renewed by covered galvanised ashbins.

Disinfection.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is exchanged free. During the year 1,486 bottles were supplied to residents, 521 at the Health Office, 569 at your distributing station at

Platt Bridge, and 396 at your Hindley Green station—128 sales and 1,358 re-issues.

For disinfection of houses after infectious disease, a 5 per cent. solution of Formalin is generally used in the form of a spray, although Formic Vap lamps, in a gaseous form, and sulphur candles, are stocked and used in certain cases.

The ten Elementary Schools are sprayed internally with a disinfectant solution during each vacation—total disinfections 42. The Hindley and Abram Grammar School was disinfected twice during the year.

During the year 106 houses were disinfected after infectious disease. 2,655 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfecter.

Number of articles destroyed—chiefly straw mattresses—42.

Meat Inspection.

The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, came into operation on the 15th January, 1940, and provided that no person shall, for human consumption, slaughter or cause to be slaughtered, any livestock as defined in the Order, except with the authority of the Ministry of Food, and therefore all slaughtering in your area was prohibited from that date, excepting pig-keepers slaughtering for their own consumption. Supervision is maintained.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—13.

Eight Licences to slaughter animals were granted to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	159 lbs.
Kippers	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	17 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	180

Apples	...	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Canned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	79 tins
Other Canned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	34 tins
Cheese and Butter	...	...	...	...	...	4½ lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	1 Bottle

Summary of Inspections and General Sanitary Work.

Nuisances brought forward from 1943	...	...	...	...	179
Nuisances reported to Committee during 1944	...	...	...	...	1,796
Nuisances abated during 1944	...	...	...	...	1,519
Number of letters sent...	...	...	...	...	282
Number of Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	94
Number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	117
Number of School Notices	...	...	...	...	34
Number of Parents' Notices	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	106
Number of Articles Disinfected	...	...	...	...	2,655
Number of Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	1,098
Factories	...	...	...	...	36
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	59
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	21
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	38
Picture Halls	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	174

Summary of Nuisances dealt with.

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	71
Defective and Choked Drains... ..	193
Defective Roofs	182
Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts...	190
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces ...	20
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls	82
Smoky Chimneys and Defective Brickwork to Chimney Stacks	57
Absence of Refuse Receptacles	26
Dampness	29
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	307
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	34
Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes ...	51
Defective Grates and Washboilers	192
Defective Plasterwork	140
Defective Floors	51
Insanitary Back Passages	—
Verminous Houses	9
Insanitary Condition of Premises	18
Living Vans so placed	26
Insanitary Condition of Factories and Work- shops	5
Insanitary Condition of Cowsheds and Dairies	35
Other Nuisances	78

Factories and Workshops Act.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	8	2
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	23	3
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	3	—
	—	—
	34	5
	—	—

(2) Defects Found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—		
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Other Nuisances	1	1
	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5
	—	—

Bakehouses.

There are 16 Bakehouses in the district, wholesale and retail. 21 visits have been made during the past year. In 4 instances it was necessary to call the attention of the occupier to the condition of the premises, particularly with regard to the limewashing of the walls and ceilings, otherwise they are fairly clean and well kept.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							20
							—

Two samples of milk were found to be not genuine. In the case of one sample, proceedings were taken against the vendor, who was fined £5 and ordered to pay costs amounting to £4 14s. 6d.

Smoke Observations.—No action necessary.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

All cases of notifiable infectious diseases notified are visited, necessary enquiries are made and advice given as to isolation, etc. Disinfection is carried out after recovery or removal to Hospital.

Red Cross Ambulance Services.

The number of patients removed in 1944 was 983.

Number of cases removed to and from Manchester...	49
Number of cases removed to and from Wigan ...	759
Number of cases removed to and from Leigh ...	95
Other cases	80
	<hr/>
	983

Total mileage recorded—10,873.2.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative was appointed in August, 1944, under the Infestation Order, 1943, to serve the three districts of Hindley, Abram and Aspull. A thorough survey of Hindley was made, and the major infestations attacked with considerable success.

Kitchen Waste.

A bi-weekly collection of kitchen waste was instituted in May. 140 bins were placed at intervals throughout the area, and circulars appealing to householders to conserve and place all vegetable waste in the receptacles provided. They were cleared twice per week and the contents conveyed to the Wigan Cleansing Depot for treatment. As there was a regular house-to-house collection outside of the Order, the quantity collected by the Local Authority does not reach the standard anticipated. The amount collected for the eight months totalled 58 tons, 9 cwts., 2 qrs.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk, Surveyor and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,
Hindley,

17th January, 1945.

Particulars of Rainfall, etc., recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1944.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above sea level.

Height of Barometer—104.00 feet above sea level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 statute acres.

Month.	Mean Monthly Temp.	Mean Monthly Pressure.	No. of days on which rain fell.	Max. fall in 24 hrs. in inches.	Total Monthly Rainfall. in inches.
January ...	42.3	29.54	18	22nd 1.57	5.46
February ...	38.7	29.58	15	1st .45	1.89
March ...	41.06	29.58	9	18th .16	.83
April ...	48.7	29.45	15	19th 1.09	2.86
May ...	52.7	29.61	10	31st .63	2.62
June ...	58.7	29.37	11	3rd .48	1.68
July ...	61.4	29.33	14	9th .69	4.18
August ...	60.5	29.51	13	27th .92	3.35
September ...	52.3	29.46	17	3rd .98	5.56
October ...	48.7	29.26	20	27th .65	4.55
November ...	42.3	29.05	23	6th .95	6.69
December ...	39.0	29.33	17	10th .82	3.88
Totals for the year 1944	...	...	182		43.55

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1944:—
11,479,649 tons.

Rainfall in inches:—

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
32.02	39.55	39.25	30.96	43.79	41.23	37.82	33.51	34.78	37.96	43.55

Thermometer Readings:

Barometer Readings.

Highest for the year	...	68°F.	Highest for the year	...	30.03
Lowest for the year	...	29°F.	Lowest for the year	...	28.28

OSWALD P. ABBOTT,

Engineer and Surveyor,

Town Hall, Hindley.



